

and work. The individual of whom I am speaking is Ahmad Rateb Olomi. He was unexpectedly and tragically taken in an airplane accident over the Arabian Sea on Monday, February 24, 2003, at the age of 45.

Mr. Olomi was born in Afghanistan, and earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. He moved to the United States in 1980. He was hired by Orange County in 1984 and shortly thereafter became a naturalized United States citizen. He worked his way up from Engineering Technician to the position of Senior Civil Engineer. Some of the more notable projects he worked on were Seven Oaks Dam, the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, and the Laguna Canyon Road State Route 133 realignment. Over his 19 years of service to Orange County, Mr. Olomi developed himself into one of the County's most talented and valued professionals.

In addition to his love for the United States and his community, he never forgot his original homeland. On the day of the tragedy, Mr. Olomi was on a 6-month leave of absence from the County of Orange traveling with the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries to help with the rebuilding of Afghanistan, and the construction of a transnational pipeline project that would pump natural gas and oil from Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and into Pakistan.

Mr. Olomi was also a dedicated family man. He is survived by his wife Roya and children, Yusef and Sahar. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man admired for his integrity, honesty, intelligence and selfless commitment to others. My thoughts and prayers go out to them for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Mr. Olomi's life, we see a man dedicated to his family, community, adopted country and original homeland—an American and Afghani whose service led to the betterment of those who had the privilege to come in contact or work with him. Honoring Mr. Olomi's memory is the least we can do today for all that he gave over his lifetime.

INTRODUCTION OF EFFICIENT ENERGY THROUGH CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIES (EFFECT) ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join Reps. CUNNINGHAM, CRANE and MATSUI in introducing the Efficient Energy through Certified Technologies (EFFECT) Act of 2003. This bill provides tax incentives to make both new and existing buildings more energy efficient. These incentives are workable, verifiable and will promote market transformation, stimulating the market for energy efficient technology and services.

Building construction and operation represents 15 percent of Gross National Product and buildings consume 35 percent of the Nation's primary energy budget—almost twice as much as cars. This bill would stimulate the economy while decreasing energy consumption. It would improve our national energy security by reducing vulnerability to transmission

disruptions and cutting our oil and gas import dependence.

The tax incentives are based totally on energy performance, achieving two critical goals: It assures that projected energy savings will be achieved; and it encourages vigorous competition and innovation in the marketplace, reducing the cost of energy efficiency.

Within 10 years, the EFFECT Act could produce power savings of 110 gigawatts—the equivalent of 275 400 megawatt power plants. The cost savings could be over \$30 billion annually. Right now the effect would stimulate the use of existing, off-the-shelf technology that can cost-effectively reduce energy use by 50 percent for existing buildings. This would result in nearly a 6 percent reduction in air pollution emissions over the next 10 years—equivalent to taking 40 percent of our automobiles off the road—and save American homeowners billions of dollars each year in energy costs.

This bill is supported by a coalition of environmentalists and industries, and as shown by the latest Gallup Poll, the American people. In that poll, 60 percent agreed that the United States should emphasize greater conservation by consumers of existing energy supplies, while 29 percent supported production of more oil, gas and coal supplies as the solution.

This bill demonstrates the extraordinary power of energy conservation to reduce the need for wasteful, inefficient, and capital intensive energy projects. There is no other Federal policy proposal that has the potential to save this much energy and peak power or to help the economy so much for so little cost. I urge my colleagues to join the original co-sponsors in passing this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 2003, I missed rollcall vote No. 42. If I had been present I would have voted "yes."

CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed by the failure of the recent talks between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopolous and Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, which ended yesterday without an agreement due to the intransigence of Mr. Denktaş.

We have observed years of intense negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities and were hopeful that this round would end in success. As you know, in 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops in Cyprus. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. The latest success is the European Council's invitation to Cyprus to become one of the ten new Member States of the European Union. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty. We had hoped that a united Cyprus would join EU.

Instead, we are faced with failure. Failure because Mr. Rauf Denktaş has denied Turkish Cypriots the opportunity to determine their own future and to vote in a referendum which would have likely lead to a solution of the Cyprus problem.

Despite my concerns and disappointment, I appreciate the comments of President Papadopolous who has stated that the Greek Cypriot side will "continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the EU."

I urge the government of Turkey to take constructive steps for resolving the Cyprus problem. And I urge the Administration to continue with its efforts to persuade Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leader to work within the UN process to end the division of Cyprus.

At a time when tensions are rising around the world, we must seize every opportunity to achieve peace and stability.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JEAN BURCH, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District. Pastor Jean Burch of Pasadena, California, has been pivotal in the social and religious vitality of our community and I wish to salute her efforts today.

Raised in Pasadena, she attended Pasadena City College, continuing her journey into higher education at Biola University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Biblical Studies.

Pastor Burch had a successful twenty-year career within the legal profession. In March 2000, she left the legal profession to become the Senior Pastor of Community Baptist Church in Pasadena. Her religious career began in the early 1970s under the leadership of Dr. Reverend Coy Turrentine, the late Bishop James E. Henry and as Assistant Pastor for her father, Pastor Emeritus John W. Burch at Community Baptist Church. In addition, she served as an instructor at the Southern California School of Ministry, teaching a course entitled "Women in Ministry."

A natural leader, she has been extensively involved in many community, civic, and religious organizations. Some of the boards she

has served on include the National Association for Law Placement, the Los Angeles Association of Legal Recruitment Directors and the Pasadena Public Library Association. Currently she is a board member of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches and Northwest Pasadena Development Corporation. Along with other faith leaders and the Coalition for Zero Violence, Pastor Burch participates in a united effort to end violence in the Pasadena Unified School District. Her church, Community Baptist, is the faith-based partner for Community Arms and Kings Villages affordable housing properties.

Pastor Jean, as she is affectionately called, is beloved and respected by the entire community. She is the proud mother of Leya Douglas, a member of her ministry team, and a grandmother to Kyle Douglas, born in January 2003.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Pastor Jean Burch. The entire community joins me in thanking Pastor Burch for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a more vibrant and enjoyable place in which to live.

**RECOGNIZING THE LEADERS OF
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST FOR
THEIR LETTER TO PRESIDENT
BUSH EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN
ABOUT A POSSIBLE PRE-
EMPTIVE ATTACK ON IRAQ**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the predominantly Black clergy, intellectual and informed laypersons of the community-serving Church of God in Christ for their letter to President Bush regarding a possible preemptive attack on Iraq. I sincerely hope that every Member of the House and every American will give serious thought to the points raised in this moving and thoughtful letter.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I wish to insert the letter into the RECORD.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.,
Memphis, TN, January 23, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: We write to you as predominantly Black clergy, intellectuals and informed laypersons of community-serving churches of the Church Of God In Christ, to address matters of the deepest gravity, namely, that of war and peace, as presented by your statements and those of Vice President Richard B. Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld concerning a preemptive attack upon Iraq.

We are mindful that war, should it come to pass, will directly affect the safety and well-being of tens of thousands of our fellow citizens in the Armed Forces, of whom significant numbers are ethnic minorities in the enlisted as well as officers and non-commissioned ranks.

Our thoughts also extend to the safety and well-being of Iraqi civilians who have not lifted a hand against the United States. We are deeply concerned that critical moral reflection on the prospects of war has been

overlooked by some in your Administration. We do not advocate a weak America; unable to defend the innocent from rapacious tyranny of attack, but a strong America must examine itself before setting off to war.

Moreover, Mr. President, we must confess that we fail to see the rush to war as a rational expression of the compassionate conservatism that you promised the country at the beginning of your Administration.

Sovereigns in antiquity and national leaders today, especially those who identify with the Christian heritage, are expected to examine their war aims, strategy and tactics in light of these moral principles to determine if war should be pursued, and if so, to determine how these can be pursued in as humane a manner as possible towards all parties to a conflict. Failure to satisfy these criteria renders the war aims, strategies and tactics, at a minimum, morally suspect and perhaps morally unacceptable in the eyes of the Church universal and under the gaze of a just and Holy God.

We note the rising voices from all parts of America pleading for restraint, reflection and prudence in considering war against Iraq. Notable conservatives from your own party with significant prior foreign policy experiences, such as Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence S. Eagleburger, have counseled against this war. This is especially true in the absence of an actual attack, or evidence of preparation for it against the United States that could be put forth for public review.

We also note the similar wise counsel against the rush to war from your own Secretary of State, General Colin L. Powell, a soldier's soldier himself. Noteworthy also is the recent letter from CIA Director George Tenet to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees warning of the grave dangers to the United States of domestic terrorism if war is waged against Iraq.

We would agree that Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, has demonstrated aggression against his neighbors in the past, some of which was unopposed by the United States government. We would also agree that if Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction this would be a matter of grave concern. In this regard, we believe that the United States' interests are best served by using the existing mechanisms of international law, collaboration and consultation with our allies and the use of existing United Nations resolutions to support the work of weapons inspectors so they may detect and destroy any weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq.

However, we do not find any moral justification for a pre-emptive strike in the absence of an attack, or real threat of an attack, upon the United States. A military strike of this nature puts the United States in the posture of aggressive warfare, not defense, which is precisely the behavior that we, and your Administration, deplore in the Iraqi regime.

We recall the moral witness of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., forty years ago when the United States launched its military excursion into Southeast Asia without significant prior public debate. In retrospect, had the American people been able to engage in a free public debate on the military aims and process, tens of thousands of lives on all sides of the conflict might have been spared.

As Church leaders, we painfully remember that while Blacks were struggling to secure full civil rights in the American South, our youth were sent off to fight and die in an undeclared war whose military and political objectives were unclear. We do not wish to see more young Americans die in a new war whose goals are ill-defined.

Money spent on war to destroy lives could instead be used to save lives by financing the

alleviation of the impending famines in southern Africa, or to provide clean drinking water to enhance the health of hundreds of thousands of poor, defenseless men, women and children throughout that continent.

These resources could also be productively directed toward providing treatment and prevention services for those afflicted by the HIV/AIDS holocaust in Africa, the United States and other countries around the world. Not to forget the blight and ravages of economic depression in Appalachia and the inner cities of America.

As those who are representative of the many churches that serve the spiritual and social needs of millions of Blacks and other ethnicities in America, we humbly ask your Administration to stay the hands of war and vengeance and instead yield to the rule of law and the inherent disposition toward peace that is central to America's Christian heritage. We call upon your decision makers to reflect upon the inspired Biblical witness of the Apostle James:

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (Saint James 4:1-3)

Surely our nation and its leaders can examine their own intentions in light of Holy Scripture before setting their feet upon the blood-soaked path of war, whose ultimate outcome is known with certainty only by the Maker of us all.

We pledge to pray for you and your Administration, that you might encounter the Divine Wisdom in this matter.

In Christ,

G.E. PATTERSON,
Presiding Bishop.

**IN HONOR OF MAYOR "W" PETE
WISNIESKI**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mayor "W" Pete Wisnieski—Dedicated family man, accomplished community leader, and admired friend and mentor to countless. Mayor Wisnieski's foresight, integrity and leadership led the City of Independence through an amazing evolution—from a sleepy rural village to a thriving, viable and family-friendly City—all without compromising the city's small-town charm.

Mayor Wisnieski was born and raised in Independence, and continues his life-long commitment to the City. Soon after graduating with honors from Independence High School, Mayor Wisnieski became operator of the Independence Ford Garage, and began raising his family. Together, Mayor Wisnieski and his wife of 64 years, Marge, raised five children, and are blessed with many grandchildren.

Mayor Wisnieski has demonstrated a life-long commitment to serving the residents of his hometown, following the path of his father, Frank Wisnieski. Frank was elected to serve as the first Mayor of the Township of Independence, and served in that capacity for sixteen years. Instilled with the ideals of public service from his parents, Mayor Wisnieski